

ATOSSA GENETICS INC  
Form DEF 14A  
April 13, 2017  
UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

---

SCHEDULE 14A

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

---

Filed by the Registrant  R

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  ..

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- R Definitive Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to sec. 240.14a-11(c) or sec. 240.14a-12

ATOSSA GENETICS INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

N/A

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

R Fee not required.

.. Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| (1) | Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies.   |
| (2) | Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies.  |
| (3) | Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined): |
| (4) | Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction.  |
| (5) | Total fee paid.   |

Edgar Filing: ATOSSA GENETICS INC - Form DEF 14A

- “ Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- “ Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

- (1) Amount Previously Paid.
- (2) Form, Schedule or Registration State No.:
- (3) Filing Party:
- (4) Date Filed:

107 Spring Street  
Seattle, Washington 98104

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
To Be Held on May 9, 2017

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Atossa Genetics Inc., a Delaware corporation (the “Company”), which will be held on May 9, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. local time, at 107 Spring Street, Seattle, Washington 98104. Only stockholders of record who held common stock at the close of business on the record date, April 6, 2017 (the “Record Date”), may attend and vote at the Annual Meeting, including any adjournment or postponement thereof.

At the Annual Meeting, you will be asked to consider and vote upon: (1) the election of two Class II directors named in the Proxy Statement; (2) the ratification of the selection of BDO USA LLP (“BDO”) as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017; (3) the approval to increase authorized shares under the Atossa Genetics 2010 Stock Option and Incentive Plan by 1,500,000 shares; and (4) the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

No other items of business are expected to be considered at the meeting and no other director nominees will be entertained, pursuant to the Company’s Bylaws. The enclosed Proxy Statement more fully describes the details of the business to be conducted at the Annual Meeting. After careful consideration, our Board of Directors has unanimously approved the proposals and recommends that you vote FOR each nominee and FOR each other proposal. After reading the Proxy Statement, please mark, date, and sign and return the enclosed proxy card in the accompanying reply envelope to ensure receipt by our tabulator. **YOUR SHARES CANNOT BE VOTED UNLESS YOU SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY OR ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON.**

A copy of the Atossa Genetics Inc. 2016 Annual Report has been mailed with this Proxy Statement to all stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Quay, M.D., Ph.D.

Chairman of the Board, President and

Chief Executive Officer

April 7, 2017

WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE MARK, DATE AND SIGN THE ENCLOSED PROXY AND RETURN IT AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PREPAID RETURN ENVELOPE. EVEN IF YOU HAVE VOTED BY PROXY, YOU MAY STILL VOTE IN PERSON IF YOU ATTEND THE MEETING. PLEASE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IF YOUR SHARES ARE HELD OF RECORD BY A BROKER, BANK OR OTHER NOMINEE AND YOU WISH TO VOTE AT THE MEETING, YOU MUST OBTAIN A PROXY CARD ISSUED IN YOUR NAME FROM THAT INTERMEDIARY.

107 Spring Street  
Seattle, Washington 98104

PROXY STATEMENT FOR  
2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON MAY 9, 2017

GENERAL INFORMATION

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Atossa Genetics Inc. (“Atossa” or the “Company”) for use at the Company’s 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, to be held at 107 Spring Street, Seattle, Washington 98104, on May 9, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. local time. This Proxy Statement and the accompanying form of proxy will be mailed to our stockholders on or about April 10, 2017. Unless otherwise indicated herein, this Proxy Statement speaks as of the close of business on April 6, 2017, which is the record date for the annual meeting (the “Record Date”).

For a proxy to be effective, it must be properly executed and received prior to the annual meeting. Each proxy properly tendered will, unless otherwise directed by the stockholder, be voted for the proposals and nominees described in this Proxy Statement and at the discretion of the proxy holder(s) with regard to all other matters that may properly come before the meeting.

The Company will pay all of the costs of soliciting proxies. We will provide copies of this Proxy Statement, notice of annual meeting and accompanying materials to brokerage firms, fiduciaries and custodians for forwarding to beneficial owners and will reimburse these persons for their costs of forwarding these materials. Our directors, officers and employees may also solicit proxies by telephone, facsimile, or personal solicitation; however, we will not pay them additional compensation for any of these services.

Only holders of record of our common stock (“common stock”) at the close of business on the Record Date are entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting. On the Record Date, there were a total of 9,650,237 shares of capital stock issued and outstanding on an as-converted to common stock basis, consisting of 6,008,913 shares of common stock and 2,731 shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock, which are convertible into 3,641,324 shares of common stock. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote on all matters to be voted upon at the annual meeting. Holders of common stock do not have the right to cumulative voting in the election of directors. The presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock on the Record Date will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the annual meeting and any adjournment thereof. Our outstanding shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock do not have voting rights.

Persons who hold shares of Atossa common stock directly on the Record Date and not through a broker, bank or other financial institution (“record holders”) must return a proxy card or attend the annual meeting in person in order to vote on the proposals. Persons who hold shares of Atossa common stock indirectly on the Record Date through a brokerage firm, bank or other financial institution (“beneficial holders”) must return a voting instruction form to have their shares voted on their behalf. Brokerage firms, banks or other financial institutions that do not receive voting instructions from beneficial holders may either vote these shares on behalf of the beneficial holders or return a proxy leaving these

shares un-voted (a “broker non-vote”).

1

Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of a quorum, but will not be counted for the purpose of determining the number of votes cast on a given proposal. The required vote for each of the proposals expected to be acted upon at the annual meeting is described below:

Proposal No. 1 — Election of directors. Directors are elected by a plurality, with the nominees obtaining the most votes being elected. Because there is no minimum vote required, abstentions and broker non-votes will be entirely excluded from the vote and will have no effect on its outcome.

Proposal No. 2 — Ratification of selection of independent registered public accounting firm. This proposal must be approved by a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the proposal. As a result, abstentions will have the same effect as voting against the proposal and broker non-votes will have no effect on the vote outcome.

Proposal No. 3 — Approval to increase the authorized shares under the 2010 Stock Option and Incentive plan by 1,500,000 shares. This proposal must be approved by a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the proposal. As a result, abstentions will have the same effect as voting against the proposal and broker non-votes will have no effect on the vote outcome.

We encourage you to vote by returning your proxy or voting instruction form. By voting in advance of the meeting, this ensures that your shares will be voted and reduces the likelihood that the Company will be forced to incur additional expenses soliciting proxies for the annual meeting. Any record holder of our common stock may attend the annual meeting in person and may revoke the enclosed form of proxy at any time by:

- executing and delivering to the corporate Secretary a later-dated proxy;
- delivering a written revocation to the corporate Secretary before the meeting; or
- voting in person at the annual meeting.

Beneficial holders of our common stock who wish to change or revoke their voting instructions should contact their brokerage firm, bank or other financial institution for information on how to do so. Beneficial holders who wish to attend the annual meeting and vote in person should contact their brokerage firm, bank or other financial institution holding shares of Atossa on their behalf in order to obtain a “legal proxy,” which will allow them to both attend the meeting and vote in person. Without a legal proxy, beneficial holders cannot vote at the annual meeting because their brokerage firm, bank or other financial institution may have already voted or returned a broker non-vote on their behalf.

PROPOSAL NO. 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Certificate of Incorporation of the Company provides that the Board is to be divided into three classes as nearly equal in number as reasonably possible, with directors in each class serving three-year terms. The total Board size is currently fixed at six directors. Currently, the Class I directors (whose terms expire at the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders) are Steven C. Quay, M.D., Ph.D., and Gregory L. Weaver. The Class II directors (whose terms expire at the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders) are Stephen J. Galli, M.D., and Richard I. Steinhart. The Class III directors (whose terms expire at the 2018 annual meeting of stockholders) are Shu-Chih Chen, Ph.D., and H. Lawrence Rimmel, Esq. Class II directors elected at the annual meeting will hold office until the 2020 annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are elected and qualified, unless they resign or their seats become vacant due to death, removal, or other cause in accordance with the Bylaws of the Company.

As described below, the Board has nominated Stephen J. Galli, M.D., and Richard I. Steinhart for reelection as Class II directors at the annual meeting. Both nominees have indicated their willingness to serve if elected. Should either of the nominees become unavailable for election at the annual meeting, the persons named on the enclosed proxy as proxy holders may vote all proxies given in response to this solicitation for the election of a substitute nominee chosen by the Board.

Nomination of Directors

The Nominating and Governance Committee, which acts as the Company's nominating committee, reviews and recommends to the Board potential nominees for election to the Board. In reviewing potential nominees, the Nominating and Governance Committee considers the qualifications of each potential nominee in light of the Board's existing and desired mix of experience and expertise. Specifically, the Nominating and Governance Committee considers each potential nominee's personal and professional ethics, integrity and values, business acumen, interest in the Company and commitment to representing the long-term interests of the stockholders. The Nominating and Governance Committee also seeks to have a Board that encompasses a range of talents, ages, skills, diversity, and expertise sufficient to provide sound and prudent oversight with respect to the operations and interests of the business. These criteria are set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, a copy of which is available on our website at [www.atossagenetics.com](http://www.atossagenetics.com).

After reviewing the qualifications of potential Board candidates, the Nominating and Governance Committee presents its recommendations to the Board, which selects the final director nominees. Upon the recommendation of the Nominating and Governance Committee, the Board nominated Dr. Galli and Mr. Steinhart for reelection as Class II directors. The Company did not pay any fees to any third parties to identify or assist in identifying or evaluating nominees for the annual meeting.

The Nominating and Governance Committee considers stockholder nominees using the same criteria set forth above. Stockholders who wish to present a potential nominee to the Nominating and Governance Committee for consideration for election at a future annual meeting of stockholders must provide the Nominating and Governance Committee with notice of the nomination and certain information regarding the candidate within the time periods set forth below under the caption "Stockholder Proposals."

Although the Nominating and Governance Committee may consider whether nominees assist in achieving a mix of Board members that represents a diversity of background and experience, which is not only limited to race, gender or national origin, we have no formal policy regarding board diversity.

Nominees and Incumbent Directors



Edgar Filing: ATOSSA GENETICS INC - Form DEF 14A

The Nominating and Governance Committee has recommended, and the Board has nominated, Dr. Galli and Mr. Steinhart to be reelected Class II directors at the annual meeting. The following table sets forth the following information for these nominees and the Company's continuing directors: the year each was first elected a director of the Company; their respective ages as of the date of filing of this Proxy Statement; the positions currently held with the Company; the year their current term will expire; and their current class.

3

Edgar Filing: ATOSSA GENETICS INC - Form DEF 14A

Nominee/Director Name and Year First Became a Director	Age	Position(s) with the Company	Year Current Term Expires	Current Director Class
Nominees for Class II Directors:				
Stephen J. Galli, M.D. (2011)	70	Director	2017	II
Richard I. Steinhart (2014)	59	Director	2017	II
Continuing Directors:				
Shu-Chih Chen, Ph.D. (2009)	55	Director	2018	III
H. Lawrence Remmel, Esq. (2012)	65	Director	2018	III
Steven C. Quay, M.D., Ph.D. (2009)	66	Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief Executive Officer	2019	I
Gregory L. Weaver (2013)	60	Director	2019	I
Class II Directors Nominated for Election				

The following persons have been nominated by the Board to be elected as Class II directors at the 2017 annual meeting.

Stephen J. Galli, M.D. Dr. Galli has served as a director of the Company since July 2011. Dr. Galli is a Professor of Pathology and of Microbiology & Immunology and the Mary Hewitt Loveless, M.D., Professor, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California since February 1999. He served as Chair of the Department of Pathology at Stanford University School of Medicine from 1999 to 2016. Before joining Stanford, he was on the faculty of Harvard Medical School. He holds 14 U.S. patents and has over 400 publications. He is past president of the American Society for Investigative Pathology and past president of the Collegium Internationale Allergologicum. In addition to receiving awards for his research, he was recognized with the 2010 Stanford University President's Award for Excellence through Diversity for his recruitment and support of women and underrepresented minorities at Stanford University. He received his B.A. degree in biology, magna cum laude, from Harvard College in 1968 and his M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School in 1973 and completed a residency in anatomic pathology at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1977. Dr. Galli has been selected to serve on the Company's Board of Directors because of his qualifications as a professor and physician, and his specialized expertise as a pathologist.

Richard I. Steinhart. Mr. Steinhart has served as a director of the Company since March 2014. Mr. Steinhart is currently the Vice President and CFO of Remedy Pharmaceuticals, Inc. a privately held pharmaceuticals company a position he assumed in October 2015. From January 2014 until he joined Remedy Pharmaceuticals, Mr. Steinhart acted as an independent financial consultant to the Biotechnology and Medical Device Industries. From April 2006 to December 2013, Mr. Steinhart was an executive at MELA Sciences, Inc., most recently serving as its Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary. From 1992 to 2006, Mr. Steinhart was Managing Director at Forest St. Capital/SAE Ventures. Earlier, he served as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Emisphere Technologies from 1991 to 1992 and as General Partner and Chief Financial Officer of CW Group Inc. Mr. Steinhart is a member of the Board of Directors of Actinium Pharmaceuticals where he is Chairman of the Audit Committee and a member of the Compensation Committee. From 2004 to 2012, Mr. Steinhart was a member of the Board of Directors of Manhattan Pharmaceuticals and was Chairman of the Audit Committee. Mr. Steinhart received his B.B.A. and M.B.A. degrees from Pace University. Mr. Steinhart has been selected to serve on the Company's Board of Directors because of his qualifications as a business executive and audit committee financial expert, and his prior experience as a Chief Financial Officer, director and committee member of public companies.

Class III Directors Continuing in Office Until 2018

Shu-Chih Chen, Ph.D. Dr. Chen served as Chief Scientific Officer of the Company since the Company was incorporated in April 2009 through August 2014. Dr. Chen has served as a director of the Company since April 2009. Prior to joining the Company, Dr. Chen served as President of Ensisheim beginning in 2008, was founder and President of SC2Q Consulting Company from 2006 to 2008, and served as Head, Cell Biology, Natestch Pharmaceutical Company, Inc. from 2002 to 2006. During 1995 and 1996, she was an Associate Professor at National Yang Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan, and served as the principal investigator of an NIH RO1 grant studying tumor suppression by gap junction protein connexin 43 at the Department of Molecular Medicine at Northwest Hospital before working in the research department at Natestch Pharmaceutical Company. She is named as an inventor on 18 patent applications related to cancer therapeutics. Dr. Chen received her Ph.D. degree in microbiology and public health from Michigan State University in 1992 and has published extensively on Molecular Oncology.

She received her B.S. degree in medical technology from National Yang Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan in 1984. Dr. Chen was selected to serve on the Company's Board of Directors because of her role as a founder of the Company and her qualifications in medical technology and as a professor and researcher in the field of cancer therapeutics.

H. Lawrence Rimmel, Esq. Mr. Rimmel has served as a director of the Company since February 2012. He is currently a partner of the law firm Pryor Cashman LLP, located in New York City, where he chairs the Banking and Finance practice group. Mr. Rimmel joined Pryor Cashman in 1988. His practice includes corporate and banking financings, issues relating to the Investment Company Act of 1940, and intellectual property and licensing issues, in particular in the biotechnology and biocosmeceutical areas. Mr. Rimmel serves on the Board of Advisors of CytoDel, LLC, an early stage bio-pharmaceutical company developing products for bio-defense, neuronal drug delivery, and musculoskeletal and aesthetic medicine. He was an associate of the law firm Reboul, MacMurray, Hewitt, Maynard & Kristol from 1984 to 1988, and began his legal career at Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, where he was an associate from 1979 to 1984. He was admitted to the New York bar in 1980 and is a member of the New York State Bar Association. He received his J.D. from the Washington & Lee University School of Law in 1979 and his B.A. from Princeton University in 1975. He currently is a doctoral candidate in the Graduate School of Life Sciences of the University of Utrecht, in the Department of Clinical and Translational Oncology. Mr. Rimmel has been selected to serve on the Company's Board of Directors because of his substantial experience as a corporate attorney advising biotechnology companies and his familiarity with the fiduciary duties and the regulatory requirements affecting publicly traded companies.

#### Class I Directors Continuing in Office Until 2019

Steven C. Quay, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Quay has served as Chief Executive Officer, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company since the Company was incorporated in April 2009. Prior to his work at the Company, Dr. Quay served as Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of MDRNA, Inc., a biotechnology company focused on the development and commercialization of RNAi-based therapeutic products, from August 2000 to May 2008, and as its Chief Scientific Officer until November 30, 2008 (MDRNA, Inc. was formerly known as Nastech Pharmaceutical Company Inc. and is currently known as Marina Biotech, Inc.). From December 2008 to April 2009, Dr. Quay was involved in acquiring the Company's assets and preparing the Company's business plan. Dr. Quay is certified in Anatomic Pathology with the American Board of Pathology, completed both an internship and residency in anatomic pathology at Massachusetts General Hospital, a Harvard Medical School teaching hospital, is a former faculty member of the Department of Pathology, Stanford University School of Medicine, and is a named inventor on 14 U.S. and foreign patents covering the ForeCYTE Breast Aspirator. Including the patents for the ForeCYTE Breast Aspirator, Dr. Quay is a named inventor on 86 U.S. patents, 129 pending patent applications and is a named inventor on patents covering five pharmaceutical products that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Quay received an M.D. in 1977 and a Ph.D. in 1975 from the University of Michigan Medical School. He also received his B.A. degree in biology, chemistry and mathematics from Western Michigan University in 1971. He was selected to serve on the Company's Board of Directors because of his role as a founder of the Company and the inventor of the ForeCYTE Breast Aspirator, as well as his qualifications as a physician and the principal researcher overseeing the clinical and regulatory development of the Company's pharmaceutical programs.

Gregory L. Weaver. Mr. Weaver has served as a director of the Company since October 2013. Mr. Weaver currently serves as Chief Financial Officer of ProMetic Life Science, a publicly traded pharmaceutical company. From January to October 2015 he served as Global Chief Financial Officer of Oryzon Genomics, an epigenetics company. From August 2013 to October 2014, Mr. Weaver served as Chief Financial Officer, Senior Vice President, Treasurer and Corporate Secretary of Fibrocell Science, Inc., an autologous cellular therapeutic company. From June 2011 to July 2013, Mr. Weaver served as Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President of Celsion Corp., an oncology drug development company. From February 2009 to August 2010, Mr. Weaver served as Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President of Poniard Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a drug development company. From April 2007 to December 2008, Mr. Weaver served as Chief Financial Officer of Talyst, Inc., a healthcare technology services company. Mr. Weaver received his B.S. degree from Trinity University and his M.B.A. degree from Boston College. Mr. Weaver

has been selected to serve on the Company's Board of Directors because of his qualifications as a business executive and audit committee financial expert, and his current and prior experience as a Chief Financial Officer, director and committee member of public companies.

5

Vote Required

The two nominees who receive the greatest number of affirmative votes of the shares present in person or by proxy will be elected as Class II directors. Any shares that are not voted, whether by abstention, broker non-votes or otherwise, will not affect the election of directors.

Holders of proxies solicited by this Proxy Statement will vote the proxies received by them as directed on the proxy card or, if no direction is made, then FOR the election of all nominees named in this Proxy Statement.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR"  
THE NOMINEES IDENTIFIED ABOVE.

## PROPOSAL NO. 2

## RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Our Audit Committee has selected BDO USA LLP (“BDO”) as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, and has further directed that we submit the selection of BDO for ratification by our stockholders at the annual meeting.

The Company is not required to submit the selection of our independent registered public accounting firm for stockholder approval. However, if the stockholders do not ratify this selection, the Audit Committee will reconsider its selection of BDO. Even if the selection is ratified, our Audit Committee may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if the Audit Committee determines that the change would be in the best interests of the Company.

The Audit Committee reviews and pre-approves all audit and non-audit services performed by its independent registered public accounting firm, as well as the fees charged for such services. All fees incurred in fiscal 2016 for services rendered by BDO were approved in accordance with these policies. In its review of non-audit service fees, the Audit Committee considers, among other things, the possible impact of the performance of such services on the auditor’s independence. The Audit Committee has determined that the non-audit services performed by BDO in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 were compatible with maintaining the auditor’s independence. Additional information concerning the Audit Committee and its activities can be found in the following sections of this Proxy Statement: “Board Committees” and “Report of the Audit Committee.”

BDO has audited our annual financial statements as of December 31, 2016 and 2015. Representatives of BDO are expected to be present at the annual meeting in person or by telephone, will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and will be available to respond to appropriate stockholder questions.

## Fees for Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The following is a summary of the fees billed to the Company by BDO for professional independent audit services rendered for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015. These fees are for work invoiced in the fiscal years indicated.

	2016	2015
Audit Fees:		
Consists of fees billed for audit of our annual financial statements and the review of the financial statements included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, and services that are normally provided by BDO in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for that fiscal year.	\$ 135,000	\$ 218,796
Other Fees:		
Audit-Related Fees	\$ 29,583	—
Total All Fees	\$ 164,583	\$ 218,796
Vote Required		

Ratification of the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the proposal. Abstentions will have the same effect as voting against the proposal. Because broker non-votes are not counted as votes for or against this proposal, they will have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE “FOR” PROPOSAL NO. 2.





PROPOSAL NO. 3

TO INCREASE THE ATOSSA GENETICS 2010 STOCK OPTION AND INCENTIVE PLAN  
BY 1,500,000 IN AGGREGATE THE NUMBER OF SHARES  
AUTHORIZED FOR ISSUANCE UNDER THE PLAN

At the Annual Meeting, you are being asked to approve an amendment to increase the number of shares authorized for issuance under the 2010 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (the “2010 Plan”) by 1,500,000 shares to a total of 1,813,605 shares authorized for issuance under the Plan.

Initially, the total number of shares of common stock available for issuance under the 2010 Plan was 66,667 shares (or 1,000,000 shares prior to the reverse stock-split in August 2016). As of January 1, 2012 and each January 1 thereafter, the number of shares of common stock reserved and available for issuance under the 2010 Plan has been cumulatively increased by 4% of the number of shares of common stock issued and outstanding on the immediately preceding December 31.

On April 6, 2017, the Board approved an amendment of the Plan, subject to shareholder approval, to increase the number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance under the Plan by 1,500,000 shares, to a total of 1,813,605 shares. The Board adopted this amendment because it believes that:

- additional shares are necessary to attract new employees and executives;
- additional shares are needed to further the goal of retaining and motivating existing personnel; and
- the issuance of options to employees is an integral component of the Company’s compensation policy.

As of April 6, 2017, options covering 313,009 shares of common stock with a weighted average exercise price of \$18.75 and a weighted average remaining term of 8.2 years were outstanding under the 2010 Plan. There remained available for future grant 313,605 shares of common stock under the 2010 Plan as of April 6, 2017. Assuming adoption of this Proposal No. 3, there will be a total of approximately 1.8 million shares available for issuance under the 2010 Plan, which equals approximately 18% of the common stock outstanding on April 6, 2017 including convertible preferred stock on an as-converted basis. The Company plans to complete an additional equity financing prior to the end of 2017 and it is projected that upon completion of that financing, assuming a dilutive affect similar to the April 3, 2017 financing of the Company, the number of shares available for issuance under the 2010 Plan will equal approximately 7.3% of the outstanding common and preferred stock of the Company.

Shares subject to outstanding awards may be returned to the 2010 Plan as a result of cancellations or expiration of awards.

#### Summary of the 2010 Plan

**General.** The purpose of the 2010 Plan is to enhance the long-term stockholders’ value of the Company by offering opportunities to eligible individuals to participate in the growth in value of the equity of the Company. The 2010 Plan provides for the grant of equity-based awards to employees, officers, non-employee directors and other key persons providing services to the Company. Awards of incentive options may be granted under the 2010 Plan until September 2020. No other awards may be granted under the 2010 Plan after the date that is 10 years from the date of stockholder approval.

**Plan Administration.** The 2010 Plan may be administered by the full Board or the Compensation Committee. It is the current intention of the Company that the 2010 Plan be administered by the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee has full power to select, from among the individuals eligible for awards, the individuals to

whom awards will be granted, to make any combination of awards to participants, and to determine the specific terms and conditions of each award, subject to the provisions of the 2010 Plan. The Compensation Committee may delegate to our Chief Executive Officer the authority to grant stock options to employees who are not subject to the reporting and other provisions of Section 16 of the Exchange Act and not subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, subject to certain limitations and guidelines.

**Eligibility.** Persons eligible to participate in the 2010 Plan will be those full or part-time officers, employees, non-employee directors and other key persons (including consultants and prospective officers) of the Company and its subsidiaries as selected from time to time by the Compensation Committee in its discretion.

**Plan Limits.** Initially, the total number of shares of common stock available for issuance under the 2010 Plan is 66,667 shares (or 1,000,000 shares prior to the reverse stock-split in August 2016). As of January 1, 2012 and each January 1 thereafter, the

number of shares of common stock reserved and available for issuance under the 2010 Plan will be cumulatively increased by 4% of the number of shares of common stock issued and outstanding on the immediately preceding December 31.

**Stock Options.** The 2010 Plan permits the granting of (i) options to purchase common stock intended to qualify as incentive stock options under Section 422 of the Code, and (ii) options that do not so qualify. Options granted under the 2010 Plan will be non-qualified options if they fail to qualify as incentive options or exceed the annual limit on incentive stock options. Incentive stock options may only be granted to employees of the Company and its subsidiaries. Non-qualified options may be granted to any persons eligible to receive incentive options and to non-employee directors and key persons. The option exercise price of each option will be determined by the Compensation Committee but may not be less than 100% of the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant. Fair market value for this purpose will be the last reported sale price of the shares of common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market on the date of grant. The exercise price of an option may not be reduced after the date of the option grant, other than to appropriately reflect changes in our capital structure.

The term of each option will be fixed by the Compensation Committee and may not exceed 10 years from the date of grant. The Compensation Committee will determine at what time or times each option may be exercised. Options may be made exercisable in installments and the exercisability of options may be accelerated by the Compensation Committee. In general, unless otherwise permitted by the Compensation Committee, no option granted under the 2010 Plan is transferable by the optionee other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and options may be exercised during the optionee's lifetime only by the optionee, or by the optionee's legal representative or guardian in the case of the optionee's incapacity.

Upon exercise of options, the option exercise price must be paid in full either in cash, by certified or bank check or other instrument acceptable to the Compensation Committee or by delivery (or attestation to the ownership) of shares of common stock that are beneficially owned by the optionee for at least six months or were purchased in the open market. Subject to applicable law, the exercise price may also be delivered to the Company by a broker pursuant to irrevocable instructions to the broker from the optionee. In addition, the Compensation Committee may permit non-qualified options to be exercised using a net exercise feature which reduces the number of shares issued to the optionee by the number of shares with a fair market value equal to the exercise price.

To qualify as incentive options, options must meet additional federal tax requirements, including a \$100,000 limit on the value of shares subject to incentive options that first become exercisable by a participant in any one calendar year.

**Stock Appreciation Rights.** The Compensation Committee may award stock appreciation rights subject to such conditions and restrictions as the Compensation Committee may determine. Stock appreciation rights entitle the recipient to shares of common stock equal to the value of the appreciation in the stock price over the exercise price. The exercise price is the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant. The term of a stock appreciation right will be fixed by the Compensation Committee and may not exceed 10 years.

**Restricted Stock.** The Compensation Committee may award shares of common stock to participants subject to such conditions and restrictions as the Compensation Committee may determine. These conditions and restrictions may include the achievement of certain performance goals and/or continued employment with us through a specified restricted period.

**Restricted Stock Shares.** The Compensation Committee may award restricted stock shares to any participants. Restricted stock shares are generally payable in the form of shares of common stock, although restricted stock shares granted to the Chief Executive Officer may be settled in cash. These shares may be subject to such conditions and restrictions as the Compensation Committee may determine. These conditions and restrictions may include the achievement of certain performance goals (as summarized above) and/or continued employment with the Company through a specified vesting period. In the Compensation Committee's sole discretion, it may permit a participant to

make an advance election to receive a portion of his or her future cash compensation otherwise due in the form of a restricted stock unit award, subject to the participant's compliance with the procedures established by the Compensation Committee and requirements of Section 409A of the Code. During the deferral period, the deferred stock awards may be credited with dividend equivalent rights.

**Adjustments for Stock Dividends, Stock Splits, Etc.** The 2010 Plan requires the Compensation Committee to make appropriate adjustments to the number of shares of common stock that are subject to the 2010 Plan, to certain limits in the 2010 Plan, and to any outstanding awards to reflect stock dividends, stock splits, extraordinary cash dividends and similar events.

**Tax Withholding.** Participants in the 2010 Plan are responsible for the payment of any federal, state or local taxes that the Company is required by law to withhold upon the exercise of options or stock appreciation rights or vesting of other awards.

Subject to approval by the Compensation Committee, participants may elect to have the minimum tax withholding obligations satisfied by authorizing the Company to withhold shares of common stock to be issued pursuant to the exercise or vesting.

**Amendments and Termination.** The Board of Directors of the Company may at any time amend or discontinue the 2010 Plan and the Compensation Committee may at any time amend or cancel any outstanding award for the purpose of satisfying changes in the law or for any other lawful purpose. However, no such action may adversely affect any rights under any outstanding award without the holder's consent. To the extent required under the NASDAQ Capital Market rules, any amendments that materially change the terms of the 2010 Plan will be subject to approval by our stockholders. Amendments shall also be subject to approval by our stockholders if and to the extent determined by the Compensation Committee to be required by the Code to preserve the qualified status of incentive options or to ensure that compensation earned under the 2010 Plan qualifies as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code.

#### Federal Income Tax Consequences of Options and Stock Awards under the Plan

THE FOLLOWING IS A GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE TYPICAL FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES UNDER CURRENT LAW OF THE ISSUANCE AND EXERCISE OF OPTIONS OR AWARDS OF RESTRICTED STOCK UNDER THE PLAN. IT DOES NOT DESCRIBE STATE OR OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE ISSUANCE AND EXERCISE OF OPTIONS, GRANT OF RESTRICTED STOCK OR GRANT OF RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS.

**Options.** The grant of an incentive stock option has no federal income tax effect on the optionee. Upon exercise, the optionee does not recognize income for "regular" tax purposes. However, the excess of the fair market value of the stock subject to an option over the exercise price of such option (the "option spread") is includible in the optionee's "alternative minimum taxable income" for purposes of the alternative minimum tax. If the optionee does not dispose of the stock acquired upon exercise of an incentive stock option until more than two years after the option grant date and more than one year after exercise of the option, any gain upon sale of the shares will be a long-term capital gain. If shares are sold or otherwise disposed of before both of these periods have expired (a "disqualifying disposition"), the option spread at the time of exercise of the option (but not more than the amount of the gain on the sale or other disposition) is ordinary income in the year of such sale or other disposition. If gain on a disqualifying disposition exceeds the amount treated as ordinary income, the excess is taxable as capital gain (which will be long-term capital gain if the shares have been held more than one year after the date of exercise of the option). The Company is not entitled to a federal income tax deduction in connection with incentive stock options, except to the extent that the optionee has taxable ordinary income on a disqualifying disposition (unless limited by Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code).

The grant of a nonstatutory option has no federal income tax effect on the optionee. Upon the exercise of a nonstatutory option, the optionee has taxable ordinary income (and the Company is entitled to a corresponding deduction unless limited by Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code) equal to the option spread on the date of exercise. Upon the disposition of stock acquired upon exercise of a nonstatutory option, the optionee recognizes either long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on how long such stock was held, on any difference between the sale price and the exercise price, to the extent not recognized as taxable income on the date of exercise. The Company may allow nonstatutory options to be transferred subject to conditions and restrictions imposed by the Administrator; special tax rules may apply on such a transfer.

In the case of both incentive stock options and nonstatutory options, special federal income tax rules apply if the Company's common stock is used to pay all or part of the option price.

**Stock Awards.** Upon receipt of a stock award, a recipient generally has taxable income in the amount of the excess of the then fair market value of the common stock over any consideration paid for the common stock (the "spread").

However, if the common stock is subject to a “substantial risk of forfeiture” (such as a requirement that the recipient continue in the employ of the Company) and the recipient does not make an election under section 83(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, the recipient will have taxable income upon the lapse of the risk of forfeiture, rather than at receipt, in an amount equal to the spread on the date of lapse. If the recipient is an employee of the Company, the taxable income constitutes supplemental wages subject to income and employment tax withholding, and the Company receives a corresponding income tax deduction, unless limited by Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. If the recipient makes an election under section 83(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, the stock received by the recipient is valued as of the date of receipt (without taking the restrictions into account) and the recipient has taxable income equal to any excess of that value over the amount he or she paid for the stock. The Company would again have a deduction equal to the income to the recipient, unless limited by Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. If the recipient makes an election under section 83(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, the consequences upon sale or disposition (other than through forfeiture) of the shares awarded or sold generally are the same as for common stock acquired under a nonstatutory option as described above.

**Restricted Stock Units.** Upon receipt of a restricted stock unit, a recipient will not recognize any taxable income. However, upon vesting of a restricted stock unit and the delivery to the recipient of the restricted stock units, the recipient generally has taxable income in the amount of the excess of the then fair market value of the common stock issued over any consideration paid for the common stock (the “spread”).

If the recipient is subject to U.S. tax law and if allowed by the Administrator, an eligible recipient may be allowed to elect to defer the distribution of some or all of the restricted stock units, thereby deferring the recipient’s recognition of taxable income until the restricted stock units are delivered to the recipient.

If the recipient is an employee of the Company, the taxable income constitutes supplemental wages subject to income and employment tax withholding, and the Company receives a corresponding income tax deduction, unless limited by Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Administrator, in its sole discretion and pursuant to such procedures as it may specify from time to time, may permit Awardee to satisfy such tax withholding obligation, in whole or in part (without limitation) by (a) paying cash, (b) electing to have the Company withhold otherwise deliverable shares of common stock having a fair market value equal to the minimum amount required to be withheld, (c) delivering to the Company already vested and owned shares of common stock having a fair market value equal to the amount required to be withheld, or (d) selling a sufficient number of such shares of common stock otherwise deliverable to recipient through such means as the Company may determine in its sole discretion (whether through a broker or otherwise) equal to the amount required to be withheld. To the extent determined appropriate by the Company in its discretion, it will have the right (but not the obligation) to satisfy any tax withholding obligations by reducing the number of shares otherwise deliverable to recipient.

The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 added Section 409A to the Internal Revenue Code, generally effective January 1, 2005. Section 409A covers most programs that defer the receipt of compensation to a succeeding year. There are significant penalties placed on the individual awardee for failure to comply with Section 409A. However, it does not impact the Company’s ability to deduct deferred compensation.

Section 409A does not apply to incentive stock options, nonstatutory stock options that have an exercise price that is at least equal to the grant date fair market value and restricted stock provided there is no deferral of income beyond the vesting date.

**Limitation on Deduction of Certain Compensation.** A publicly-held corporation may not deduct compensation in excess of a certain amount that is paid in any year to its Chief Executive Officer or other four most highly compensated officers unless the compensation constitutes “qualified performance-based” compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Company generally attempts to ensure that any awards under the Plan meet these standards, but may not do so in every instance.

#### Accounting Treatment

The Company recognizes compensation expense based on the grant-date fair value of awards granted under the Plan. The Company uses the Black-Scholes option valuation model to determine the fair value of the award, which is affected by the Company’s stock price and the number of shares granted, as well as assumptions which include the Company’s expected term of the award, the expected stock price volatility, risk-free interest rate and expected dividends over the expected term of the award. The expense associated with each award will generally be recognized over the award’s vesting period.

#### New Plan Benefits

As of the date hereof, no options or other stock awards have been granted on the basis of the share increase for which shareholder approval is sought under this Proposal 3. Accordingly, future benefits or amounts received are not determinable. The following table presents information with respect to stock awards and options granted under the

Edgar Filing: ATOSSA GENETICS INC - Form DEF 14A

Plan to the named executive officers and named groups during the year ended December 31, 2016.

Name	Grant Date	Number of Shares Granted <sup>(1)</sup>
Steven Quay President and Chief Executive Officer	5/18/2016	37,945
Kyle Guse Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel and Secretary	5/18/2016	72,667

(1) All options were granted with exercise prices equal to the closing price of the Company's common stock on the date of grant.



Vote Required

Approval of the amendment to the 2010 Plan requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the proposal. Abstentions will have the same effect as voting against the proposal. Because broker non-votes are not counted as votes for or against this proposal, they will have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" PROPOSAL NO. 3.

12

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

### Director Independence

We believe that the Company benefits from having a strong and independent Board. For a director to be considered independent, the Board must determine that the director does not have any direct or indirect material relationship with the Company that would affect his or her exercise of independent judgment. On an annual basis, the Board reviews the independence of all directors under guidelines established by NASDAQ and in light of each director's affiliations with the Company and members of management, as well as significant holdings of Company securities. This review considers all known relevant facts and circumstances in making an independence determination. Based on this review, the Board has made an affirmative determination that all directors, other than Drs. Quay and Chen, are independent. It was determined that Dr. Quay lacks independence because of his status as the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer and that Dr. Chen lacks independence because of her marriage to Dr. Quay. The independent board members meet regularly without the non-independent members and without management.

### Corporate Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We believe that our Board and committees, led by a group of strong and independent directors, provide the necessary leadership, wisdom and experience that the Company needs in making sound business decisions. We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to all of our officers, directors and employees, including our President and Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Financial Officer and other employees who perform financial or accounting functions. Our Corporate Code of Business Conduct and Ethics helps clarify the operating standards and ethics that we expect of all of our officers, directors and employees in making and implementing those decisions. Waivers of our Corporate Code of Business Conduct and Ethics may only be granted by the Board or the Audit Committee and will be publicly announced promptly on our website. In furthering our commitment to these principles, we invite you to review our Corporate Code of Business Conduct and Ethics located on our website at [www.atossagenetics.com](http://www.atossagenetics.com).

### Stockholder Communications

Generally, stockholders who have questions or concerns regarding the Company should contact our Investor Relations representative at (800) 351-3902. However, any stockholders who wish to address questions regarding the business or affairs of the Company directly with the Board, or any individual director, should direct his or her questions in writing to the Chairman of the Board, Atossa Genetics Inc., 107 Spring Street, Seattle, WA 98104. Upon receipt of any such communications, the correspondence will be directed to the appropriate person, including individual directors.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

During fiscal 2016, our Board met six times. Each director attended at least 75% of the aggregate of the meetings of the Board and meetings of the committees of which he or she was a member in our last fiscal year. During fiscal 2016, our Board had an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, a Pricing Committee and a Nominating and Governance Committee. All members of the Audit, Compensation and Nominating and Governance Committees are non-employee directors who are deemed independent.

Although the Company has no formal policies regarding director attendance at annual meetings, it does expect that all members of the Board will attend the 2017 annual meeting. All members of the Board were present in person at the 2016 annual meeting.

### Board Leadership Structure and Risk Oversight

The Board currently combines the role of Chairman of the Board with the role of Chief Executive Officer. The Board believes this leadership model, together with four of the other five Board members being independent, all key committees of the Board being comprised solely of, and chaired by, independent directors, and the Company's established governance guidelines, provides an effective leadership structure for the Company. Combining the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer roles fosters clear accountability, effective decision-making, and aligns corporate strategy with the Company's day-to-day operations. In addition, to ensure effective independent oversight of the Company, the Board holds meetings of the independent directors of the Board at every meeting.

Dr. Quay has served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since the Company was incorporated in April 2009. The independent directors believe that because Dr. Quay manages the Company on a day-to-day basis as Chief Executive Officer and President, his direct involvement in the Company's operations makes him uniquely qualified to lead the Board in effective decision-making and to efficiently align the Company's day-to-day operations with the Board's objectives.

The Board has overall responsibility for the oversight of the Company's risk management process, which is designed to support the achievement of organizational objectives, including strategic objectives, to improve long-term organizational performance and enhance shareholder value. Risk management includes not only understanding company-specific risks and the steps management implements to manage those risks, but also what level of risk is acceptable and appropriate for the Company. Management is responsible for establishing our business strategy, identifying and assessing the related risks and implementing appropriate risk management practices. The Board periodically reviews our business strategy and management's assessment of the related risk, and discusses with management the appropriate level of risk for the Company. The Board also delegates oversight to Board committees to oversee selected elements of risk as set forth below.

#### Board Committees

**Audit Committee.** As of the Record Date, the Audit Committee was comprised of Messrs. Steinhart (Chairman), Weaver and Remmel. The Audit Committee selects the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, approves its compensation, oversees and evaluates the performance of the independent registered public accounting firm, oversees the accounting and financial reporting policies and internal control systems of the Company, reviews the Company's interim and annual financial statements, independent registered public accounting firm reports and management letters, and performs other duties, as specified in the Audit Committee Charter, a copy of which is available on the Company's website at [www.atossagenetics.com](http://www.atossagenetics.com). Additionally, the Audit Committee is involved in the oversight of the Company's risk management through its review of policies relating to risk assessment and management. The Audit Committee met six times in fiscal 2016. All members of the Audit Committee satisfy the current independence standards promulgated by NASDAQ and the SEC and the Board has determined that Richard Steinhart and Gregory Weaver each qualify as an "audit committee financial expert," as the SEC has defined that term in Item 407 of Regulation S-K.

**Compensation Committee.** As of the Record Date, the Compensation Committee was comprised of Messrs. Weaver (Chairman) and Steinhart, and Dr. Galli. The Compensation Committee reviews and recommends the compensation arrangements for management, or approves such arrangements if so directed by the Board, establishes and reviews general compensation policies, administers the Company's equity compensation plans and reviews and recommends to the Board the compensation paid to non-employee directors for their service on the Board. Our Chief Executive Officer makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee regarding the corporate and individual performance goals and objectives relevant to executive compensation and executives' performance in light of such goals and objectives, and recommends other executives' compensation levels to the Compensation Committee based on such evaluations. The Compensation Committee may delegate authority to grant awards under our 2010 Stock Option and Incentive Plan to the Chief Executive Officer but it has not historically done so. The Compensation Committee considers these recommendations and then makes an independent decision regarding officer compensation levels and awards. The Chief Executive Officer is not present when his compensation is evaluated. The Compensation Committee met two times in fiscal 2016. A copy of the Compensation Committee Charter is available on the Company's website at [www.atossagenetics.com](http://www.atossagenetics.com). All members of the Compensation Committee satisfy the current NASDAQ independence standards.

**Nominating and Governance Committee.** As of the Record Date, the Nominating and Governance Committee was comprised of Dr. Galli (Chairman) and Mr. Remmel. The Nominating and Governance Committee identifies and nominates candidates for election to the Board, establishes policies under which stockholders may recommend a candidate for consideration for nomination as a director, annually reviews and evaluates the performance, operations,

size and composition of the Board and periodically assesses and reviews the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines and recommends any appropriate changes thereto. The Nominating and Governance Committee met two times in fiscal 2016. A copy of the Corporate Governance Committee Charter is available on our website at [www.atossagenetics.com](http://www.atossagenetics.com). All members of the Corporate Governance Committee satisfy the current NASDAQ independence standards.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND KEY EMPLOYEES

Our current and former executive officers and their respective ages and positions as of the Record Date are set forth in the following table. Biographical information regarding each executive officer and key employee is set forth following the table. Biographical information for Dr. Quay is set forth above under Proposal No. 1 (Election of Directors).

Name	Age	Position
Executive Officers:		
Steven C. Quay, M.D., Ph.D.	66	Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer
Kyle Guse, Esq., CPA	53	Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel and Secretary

## Former Executive Officers:

Scott Youmans	50	Chief Operating Officer
---------------	----	-------------------------

Kyle Guse, Esq., CPA. Mr. Guse has served as Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel and Secretary since January 2013. His experience includes more than 20 years of counseling life sciences and other rapid growth companies through all aspects of finance, corporate governance, securities laws and commercialization. Mr. Guse has practiced law at several of the largest international law firms, including from January 2012 through January 2013 as a partner at Baker Botts LLP and, prior to that, from October 2007 to January 2012, as a partner at McDermott Will & Emery LLP. Before working at McDermott Will & Emery, Mr. Guse previously served as a partner at Heller Ehrman LLP. Mr. Guse began his career as an accountant at Deloitte & Touche and he is a licensed Certified Public Accountant in the State of California. Mr. Guse earned a B.S. in business administration and an M.B.A. from California State University, Sacramento, and a J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law.

Scott Youmans. Mr. Youmans joined Atossa on September 1, 2014 and served as the Senior Vice President of Operations until September 1, 2015, when he was promoted to the Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Youmans resigned on February 12, 2016 to pursue other career opportunities. Prior to joining Atossa, Mr. Youmans was the Director of Engineering at Impel Neuropharma from February to September 2014. He consulted for Bayer Interventional from December 2013 to February 2014. Before that he was VP of Engineering at Pathway Medical Technologies from September 2000 to November 2013 when Pathway was acquired by Bayer Interventional. Mr. Youmans brings 20 years of medical device development and manufacturing experience in both U.S. and international markets. Throughout his 20 year career, he has focused on developing, manufacturing and commercializing complex, innovative medical technologies in a wide variety of clinical applications including: targeted drug delivery, peripheral vascular atherectomy, coronary atherectomy, thrombectomy, biopsy tools, and beating heart support. He brings experience in rapid product iteration, design controls, continuous improvement, supply chain development and management, product life-cycle management, project management, pre-clinical studies, clinical studies and clinical field support. Prior to joining Atossa Genetics, Mr. Youmans directed the development of the Precision Olfactory Device at Impel Neuropharma from February to September 2014. From 2000 to 2013, Mr. Youmans led the development of Pathway Medical's Jetstream Atherectomy System and held increasingly responsible roles, including VP of Engineering since 2003. Mr. Youmans holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology from Western Washington University.

## BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

Based on information available to us and filings with the SEC, the following table sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership (as defined by Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) of our outstanding common stock for (i) each of our directors, (ii) each of our “named executive officers,” as defined in Executive Compensation below, (iii) all of our directors and executive officers as a group, and (iv) persons known to us to beneficially hold more than 5% of our outstanding common stock. The following information is presented as of April 6, 2017 or such other date as may be reflected below.

Beneficial ownership and percentage ownership are determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and include voting or investment power with respect to shares of stock. This information does not necessarily indicate beneficial ownership for any other purpose. Under these rules, shares of common stock issuable under stock options or warrants that are exercisable within 60 days of April 6, 2017 are deemed outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of the person holding the options or warrant(s), but are not deemed outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person. Unless otherwise indicated below, the address of each person listed on the table is c/o Atossa Genetics Inc., 107 Spring Street, Seattle, Washington 98104.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Shares Beneficially Owned	
	Number	Percent of Class <sup>(1)</sup>
Steven C. Quay, M.D., Ph.D.(2)	378,707	3.9 %
Shu-Chih Chen, Ph.D.(3)	305,037	3.2 %
Kyle Guse, Esq., CPA, Esq.(8)	98,581	1.0 %
Stephen J. Galli, M.D.(5)	25,306	*
Gregory L. Weaver(4)	15,623	*
Scott Youmans(9)	0	*
Richard I Steinhart(6)	9,529	*
H. Lawrence Remmel, Esq.(7)	626	*
All current executive officers and directors as a group (8 persons)	543,522	5.6 %

\* Less than one percent.

(1) Based on 9,650,237 shares of common stock and preferred stock on an as-converted to common stock basis issued and outstanding as of April 6, 2017.

(2) Consists of (i) 31,902 shares of common stock directly owned by Dr. Quay, (ii) 289,887 shares of common stock owned by Ensisheim Partners LLC, and (iii) 56,918 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options held by Dr. Quay and exercisable within 60 days after April 6, 2017. Drs. Quay and Chen share voting and investment power over the securities held by Ensisheim. Ensisheim is solely owned and controlled by Drs. Quay and Chen, and, as a result, Drs. Quay and Chen are deemed to be beneficial owners of the shares held by this entity.

(3) Consists of (i) 289,887 shares of common stock owned by Ensisheim, and (ii) 15,150 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options held by Dr. Chen and exercisable within 60 days after April 6, 2017. Drs. Quay and Chen share voting and investment power over the securities held by Ensisheim. Ensisheim is solely owned and controlled by Drs. Quay and Chen, and, as a result, Drs. Quay and Chen are deemed to be beneficial owners of the shares held by this entity.

(4) Consists of 14,957 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options held by Mr. Weaver and exercisable within 60 days of April 6, 2017 and 666 shares of common stock held by Mr. Weaver.

(5) Consists of (i) 1,178 shares of common stock held by Dr. Galli, and (ii) 24,128 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options held by Dr. Galli and exercisable within 60 days of April 6, 2017.

(6) Consists of 9,529 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options held by Mr. Steinhart and exercisable within 60 days of April 6, 2017.

(7) Consists of 493 shares of common stock held by Mr. Rimmel and 133 shares of common stock held by Mr. Rimmel's spouse. Mr. Rimmel disclaims beneficial ownership of the 133 shares of common stock held by his spouse.

(8) Consists of 98,581 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options held by Mr. Guse and exercisable within 60 days of April 6, 2017.



## CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

### Transactions with Related Parties

Other than compensation arrangements described below under the captions “Director Compensation” and “Executive Compensation,” we are not a party to any transactions between us and certain “related parties,” which are generally considered to be our directors and executive officers, nominees for director, holders of 5% or more of our outstanding common stock and members of their immediate families.

### Related-Party Transaction Review and Approval

Related-party transactions that the Company is required to disclose publicly under the federal securities laws will require prior approval of the Company’s independent directors without the participation of any director who may have a direct or indirect interest in the transaction in question. Related parties include directors, nominees for director, principal stockholders, executive officers and members of their immediate families. For these purposes, a “transaction” will include all financial transactions, arrangements or relationships, ranging from extending credit to the provision of goods and services for value and will include any transaction with a company in which a director, executive officer, immediate family member of a director or executive officer, or principal stockholder (that is, any person who beneficially owns five percent or more of any class of the Company’s voting securities) has an interest by virtue of a 10% or greater equity interest. The Company’s policies and procedures regarding related-party transactions are not expected to be a part of a formal written policy, but rather, will represent a course of practice determined to be appropriate by the Board of Directors of the Company.

## SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our executive officers and directors, and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities, to file reports of beneficial ownership and changes in beneficial ownership with the SEC. Executive officers, directors and greater-than-10% stockholders are required by SEC regulations to furnish us with copies of all reports filed under Section 16(a). To the Company’s knowledge, based solely on the review of copies of the reports filed with the SEC, all reports required to be filed by our executive officers, directors and greater-than-10% stockholders were timely filed in fiscal 2016.

## DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Non-employee director compensation is generally reviewed and set annually at the Board meeting held in connection with the annual stockholder meeting. The non-employee directors of the Company received the following for services on the Board from May 2016 through May 2017:

- upon joining the Board, an initial payment of \$50,000 in cash;
- an annual cash payment of \$40,000 for each board member; and
- an annual grant of options exercisable for 40,000 shares; however, because all outstanding options were significantly underwater as of the 2016 annual stockholder meeting, the Board instead granted options to in an amount equal to the total number of shares issuable upon exercise of all previously granted options to such directors, vesting quarterly over one year.

In lieu of the above 40,000 share annual option grant, Dr. Chen’s outstanding options granted to her during her service as Chief Scientific Officer continue to vest and be exercisable during her services as a member of the Board. Dr. Chen also provided consulting services to the Company related to the manufacturing of the Company’s endoxifen drug in Taiwan. The Company paid \$27,439 to Dr. Chen for such services in 2016.

In addition to the above, annual compensation for service on the Audit Committee is \$20,000 for the Chair and \$15,000 for each member, paid in cash quarterly. Annual compensation for service on the Compensation Committee and Nominating and Governance Committee is \$15,000 for the Chair and \$10,000 for each member, paid in cash quarterly. The independent board members are also reimbursed on a case by case basis up to a pre-set limit for actual out of pocket expenses for graduate level course work in fields related to the business of the Company.

Edgar Filing: ATOSSA GENETICS INC - Form DEF 14A

The employee directors receive no compensation for their board service. Pursuant to the policies of Pryor Cashman, the law firm of which Mr. Rimmel is a partner, the compensation Mr. Rimmel receives for his services as a director (other than expense reimbursement) is paid to the firm directly which cash fee was waived in 2016. All directors receive reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses. The following table sets forth information regarding compensation earned by our non-employee directors during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016:

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Option Awards Dollar Amount <sup>(1)</sup>	Option Awards Number of Shares	Total
Shu-Chih Chen, Ph.D.(2)	\$ 40,000	\$ 25,811	10,101	\$ 65,811
Stephen Galli, M.D.	\$ 65,000	\$ 27,657	12,065	\$ 92,657
H. Lawrence Rimmel, Esq.(3)	\$ —	\$ 24,571	8,842	\$ 24,571
Gregory L. Weaver	\$ 70,000	\$ 23,267	7,479	\$ 93,267
Richard Steinhart	\$ 70,000	\$ 20,669	4,765	\$ 90,669

(1) The value of the awards has been computed in accordance with FASB ASC 718, excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures. Assumptions used in the calculations for these amounts are included in notes to our financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

Option awards consist of 2016 annual option grants, to purchase shares of Common Stock with an exercise price of \$3.945, which was the fair value of our common shares at the time of grant. Options vest quarterly over a year.

(2) Dr. Chen retired as the Chief Scientific Officer in August 2014. The options granted to her as an executive officer continue to vest and be exercisable during her service as a member of the Board of Directors. The table excludes \$27,439 paid to Dr. Chen for services she provided to the Company as a consultant in 2016.

(3) The compensation Mr. Rimmel receives for his services as a director in the form of an option grant is assigned to the Pryor Cashman law firm of which Mr. Rimmel is a partner. All cash fees payable to Mr. Rimmel have been waived by Mr. Rimmel and credited back to the Company.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

## Remuneration of Officers

Our Compensation Committee is responsible for reviewing and evaluating key executive employee base salaries, setting goals and objectives for executive bonuses and administering benefit plans. The Compensation Committee provides advice and recommendations to our Board of Directors on such matters.

Summary Compensation Table The following table sets forth the compensation earned by our President and Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and former Chief Operating Officer (collectively, the “Named Executive Officers”), for fiscal years 2015 and 2016:

Name and Position	Year	Salary	Option Award <sup>(1)</sup>	Nonequity Incentive Plan Compensation	All Other Compensation <sup>(2)</sup>	Total
Steven C. Quay, M.D., Ph.D. President and Chief Executive Officer	2016	\$ 520,000	\$ 177,952	\$ 300,000	\$ 10,600	\$ 1,008,552
	2015	\$ 520,000	\$ 437,577	\$ 208,000	\$ 10,600	\$ 1,176,177
Kyle Guse Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel and Secretary	2016	\$ 364,000	\$ 415,582	\$ 170,000	\$ 10,600	\$ 950,582
	2015	\$ 364,000	\$ 302,325	\$ 131,040	\$ 10,600	\$ 807,965
Scott Youmans <sup>(3)</sup> Chief Operating Officer	2016	\$ 34,280	—	\$ 104,292	—	\$ 138,572
	2015	\$ 239,200	\$ 88,866	\$ 80,371	\$ 2,870	\$ 411,307

(1) The value of the option awards has been computed in accordance with FASB ASC 718, excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures. Assumptions used in the calculations for these amounts are included in notes to our financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A. Additional information about the terms of each option award is below under “Executive Compensation — Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End.”

(2) Amounts represent 401(k) match paid by the Company on behalf of the Named Executive Officer.

(3) Mr. Youmans resigned as the Chief Operating Officer of the Company on February 12, 2016. Based on the employment separation agreement between the company and Mr. Youmans, Mr. Youmans received \$23,920 in severance pay and received one-half of his 2015 bonus of \$40,186 in a lump sum payment in February 2016 and the other one-half bonus of \$40,186 was paid in equal monthly payments over six months following his departure.

## Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

The following table shows information regarding our outstanding equity awards at December 31, 2016 for the Named Executive Officers, all of which are subject to the terms and conditions of the 2010 Plan which is described below:

Name	Grant Date	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable		Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Option Exercise Price	Option Expiration Date
Steven Quay President and Chief Executive Officer	3/11/2013	2,946	(1)	—	\$ 98.55	3/11/2023
	5/6/2014	10,283	(2)	6,384	\$ 18.30	5/06/2024
	3/16/2015	8,023	(2)	10,310	\$ 28.20	5/16/2025
	5/18/16	14,229	(3)	23,716	\$ 3.945	5/18/2026
Kyle Guse Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel and Secretary	1/4/2013	33,333	(4)	—	\$ 61.65	1/04/2023
	6/4/2013	4,000	(1)	—	\$ 64.65	6/04/2023
	1/8/2014	6,417	(2)	2,916	\$ 33.00	1/08/2024
	5/6/2014	8,333	(2)	5,000	\$ 18.30	5/06/2024
	3/16/2015	5,542	(2)	7,125	\$ 28.20	3/16/2025
	5/18/16	4,833	(3)	67,834	\$ 3.945	5/18/2026
Scott Youmans, Chief Operating Officer(5)	9/2/2014	7,500	(4)	5,833	\$ 27.90	9/02/2024
	3/16/2015	1,057	(2)	1,359	\$ 22.56	3/16/2025
	9/21/2015	208	(2)	3,125	\$ 11.40	1/01/2026

(1) Option was granted in lieu of a cash bonus payable to the executive. The option was fully vested on the date of grant. See “Executive Compensation” above.

(2) Option vests quarterly over four years from the date of grant.

(3) Option vests quarterly over two years from the date of grant.

(4) One quarter of the shares of common stock underlying the option vested on the first anniversary of employment and the remaining 75% vest in equal quarterly installments over the next three years.

(5) Mr. Youmans options stopped vesting on February 12, 2016 when he resigned as the Chief Operating Officer of the Company. Pursuant to his severance agreement he had the right to exercise his options until February 12, 2017. His options expired unexercised on February 12, 2017.

## Employment Agreements

## Employment Agreement with Steven Quay, M.D., Ph.D.

The Company has entered into an employment agreement with Dr. Quay to act as the Company’s Chief Executive Officer. The agreement provides for an initial base salary of \$250,000, which was subsequently increased to \$500,000 for 2014 and \$520,000 for 2015 and 2016, with an annual target bonus of up to 50% of Dr. Quay’s then-current base

salary, payable upon the achievement of performance goals to be established annually by the Compensation Committee. The goals for fiscal 2016 included raising at least \$5 million in capital, initiating and continuing the fulvestrant microcatheter Phase 2 study, effectively managing the intellectual property licensing dispute with Besins Healthcare Luxembourg SARL (“Besins”), and developing one additional pharmaceutical candidate. In February 2017, the Compensation Committee reviewed the performance of Dr. Quay for 2016 against these goals and determined that his bonus for 2016 would be 120% of potential, or \$300,000.

Under his employment agreement, Dr. Quay received an option to purchase up to 16,667 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$75.00 per share, the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant, as determined by the Board of Directors. One-quarter of the shares of common stock underlying the option, or 4,167 shares, vested on December 31, 2010, and the remaining 75%, or 12,500 shares, vested in equal quarterly installments over the next three years. The options were fully vested as of December 31, 2013 and subsequently expired unexercised on July 22, 2015.

20

During the employment term, the Company will make available to Dr. Quay employee benefits provided to other key employees and officers of the Company. To the extent these benefits are based on length of service with the Company, Dr. Quay will receive full credit for prior service with the Company. Participation in health, hospitalization, disability, dental and other insurance plans that the Company may have in effect for other executives, all of which shall be paid for by the Company with contribution by Dr. Quay as set for the other executives, as and if appropriate.

Dr. Quay has also agreed that, for the period commencing on the date of his employment agreement with the Company and during the term of his employment and for a period of 12 months following voluntary termination of his employment with the Company that he will not compete with the Company in the United States. The employment agreement also contains provisions relating to confidential information and assignment of inventions, which require Dr. Quay to refrain from disclosing any proprietary information and to assign to the Company any inventions which directly concern the ForeCYTE Breast Aspirator, or future products, research, or development, or which result from work they perform for the Company or using its facilities.

#### Employment Agreement with Kyle Guse

The Company has entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Guse to act as the Company's Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel and Secretary. The agreement provides for an initial base salary of \$225,000, which has been increased to \$364,000 for 2015 and 2016 and an annual target bonus of up to 45% of Mr. Guse's then-current base salary, payable upon the achievement of performance goals to be established annually by the Compensation Committee. The goals for fiscal 2016 included raising at least \$5 million in capital, initiating and continuing the fulvestrant microcatheter Phase 2 study, effectively managing the intellectual property licensing dispute with Besins, and developing one additional pharmaceutical candidate. In February 2017, the Compensation Committee reviewed the performance of Mr. Guse for 2016 against these goals and determined that his bonus for 2016 would be 103% of potential, or \$170,000.

Under his employment agreement, on January 4, 2014, Mr. Guse received an option to purchase up to 33,333 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$61.65 per share, the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant, as determined by the Board of Directors. One-quarter of the shares of common stock underlying the option, or 8,333 shares, vested on January 4, 2014, and the remaining 75%, or 25,000 shares, vest in equal quarterly installments over the next three years, so long as Mr. Guse remains employed with the Company. In lieu of a cash signing and relocation bonus payable to Mr. Guse under the terms of his employment agreement, on June 4, 2013 he received a fully-vested option to purchase 4,000 shares of common stock exercisable at \$64.65 per share, the fair value of the Company's common stock on the date of grant.

During the employment term, the Company will make available to Mr. Guse employee benefits provided to other key employees and officers of the Company. To the extent these benefits are based on length of service with the Company, Mr. Guse will receive full credit for prior service with the Company. Participation in health, hospitalization, disability, dental and other insurance plans that the Company may have in effect for other executives, all of which shall be paid for by the Company with contribution by Mr. Guse as set for the other executives, as and if appropriate.

Mr. Guse has also agreed that, for the period commencing on the date of his employment agreement with the Company and during the term of his employment and for a period of six months following voluntary termination of his employment with the Company that he will not compete with the Company in the United States.

#### Employment Agreement with Scott Youmans

In connection with the hiring of Mr. Youmans, the Company entered into an offer letter agreement which provides for an initial base salary of \$230,000, which was increased to \$287,000 on September 1, 2015 when Mr. Youmans was promoted to the Chief Operating Officer with a bonus of up to 25%. Mr. Youmans was also granted an option to purchase 13,333 shares of common stock at \$27.90 per share upon joining Atossa and 3,333 at the time of his

promotion at market value of \$11.40, the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant, as determined by the Board of Directors. The offer letter agreement provides that Mr. Youmans will be offered employment benefits similar to other members of management and that he is terminable at will. His options will accelerate upon a change of control. Mr. Youmans resigned as the Chief Operating Officer of the Company on February 12, 2016. Based on the employment separation agreement, Mr. Youmans received \$23,920 in severance pay and received one-half of his 2015 bonus of \$40,186 in a lump sum payment in February 2016 and the other one-half bonus of \$40,186 will be paid in equal monthly payments over six months following his departure and an extension to one year of the time by which Mr. Youmans has the right to exercise stock options previously granted to him.



## Severance Benefits and Change in Control Arrangements

The Company has agreed to provide the severance benefits and change in control arrangements described below to its named executive officers.

Dr. Steven Quay. Pursuant to his employment agreement, if (i) the Company terminates the employment of Dr. Quay without cause, or (ii) Dr. Quay terminates his employment for good reason, then Dr. Quay will be entitled to receive all accrued but unpaid compensation, plus a severance payment equal to 12 months of base salary. In addition, upon such event, the vesting of all shares of common stock underlying options then held by Dr. Quay will accelerate, and the options will remain exercisable for the remainder of their terms. The cash severance payment is required to be paid in substantially equal installments over a period of six months beginning on the Company's first payroll date that occurs following the 30th day after the effective date of termination of Dr. Quay's employment, subject to certain conditions. The Company will not be required, however, to pay any severance pay for any period following the termination date if Dr. Quay materially violates certain provisions of his employment agreement and the violation is not cured within 30 days following receipt of written notice from the Company containing a description of the violation and a demand for immediate cure.

In addition, under the terms of his employment agreement, in the event of a "change in control" of the Company (as defined in the employment agreement) during Dr. Quay's employment term, Dr. Quay will be entitled to receive a one-time payment equal to 2.9 times his base salary, and the vesting of all outstanding equity awards then held by Dr. Quay will accelerate such that they are fully vested as of the date of the change in control.

Kyle Guse. Pursuant to his employment agreement, if (i) the Company terminates the employment of Mr. Guse without cause, or (ii) Mr. Guse terminates his employment for good reason, then Mr. Guse will be entitled to receive all accrued but unpaid compensation including pro-rated bonus, plus a severance payment equal to 12 months of base salary. In addition, upon such event, the vesting of 50% of shares of common stock underlying unvested options then held by Mr. Guse will accelerate, and the options will remain exercisable for the remainder of their terms. The cash severance payment is required to be paid in substantially equal installments over a period of six months beginning on the Company's first payroll date that occurs following the 30th day after the effective date of termination of Mr. Guse's employment, subject to certain conditions. The Company will not be required, however, to pay any severance pay for any period following the termination date if Mr. Guse materially violates certain provisions of his employment agreement and the violation is not cured within 30 days following receipt of written notice from the Company containing a description of the violation and a demand for immediate cure.

In addition, under the terms of his employment agreement, in the event of a "change in control" of the Company (as defined in the employment agreement) during Mr. Guse's employment term, Mr. Guse will be entitled to receive a one-time payment equal to two times his base salary, and the vesting of all outstanding equity awards then held by Mr. Guse will accelerate such that they are fully vested as of the date of the change in control.

## 2010 Stock Option and Incentive Plan

The Company's 2010 Stock Option and Incentive Plan, or the 2010 Plan, provides for the grant of equity-based awards to employees, officers, non-employee directors and other key persons providing services to the Company. The 2010 Plan is summarized under Proposal 3.

## Other Benefits

The Company offers health, dental, disability, 401(k) matching up to 4% of salary (which became available in 2014) and life insurance to its full-time employees.

## Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table sets forth certain information, as of December 31, 2016, regarding the Company's 2010 Plan, as well as other stock options and warrants previously issued by the Company as compensation for services.

Plan category	Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in First Column)(1)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	310,257	\$ 30.45	156,388
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	68,667	(2) \$ 50.10	—
Total	378,924	\$ 34.20	156,388

(1) Excludes shares that may be added after December 31, 2016 pursuant to the "evergreen" feature under the 2010 Plan. For example, on January 1, 2017, 151,477 shares were automatically added to the 2010 Plan under the evergreen feature.

(2) Represents options granted to new employees as inducements for employment which were not required to be approved by security holders. The options are subject to the 2010 Plan, but were granted outside of such plan. Excludes warrants granted and outstanding in connection with financing agreements.

## REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee evaluates auditor performance, manages relations with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, and evaluates policies and procedures relating to internal control systems. The Audit Committee operates under a written Audit Committee Charter that has been adopted by the Board, a copy of which is available on the Company's website at [www.atossagenetics.com](http://www.atossagenetics.com). All members of the Audit Committee currently meet the independence and qualification standards for Audit Committee membership set forth in the listing standards provided by NASDAQ and the SEC.

No member of the Audit Committee is a professional accountant or auditor. The members' functions are not intended to duplicate or to certify the activities of management and the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee serves a board-level oversight role in which it provides advice, counsel and direction to management and the auditors on the basis of the information it receives, discussions with management and the auditors, and the experience of the Audit Committee's members in business, financial and accounting matters.

The Audit Committee oversees the Company's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board. The Company's management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and reporting process, including the Company's system of internal controls. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviewed with management the audited financial statements included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. This review included a discussion of the quality and the acceptability of the Company's financial reporting, including the nature and extent of disclosures in the financial statements and the accompanying notes. The Audit Committee also reviewed the progress and results of the testing of the design and effectiveness of its internal controls over financial reporting pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The Audit Committee also reviewed with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, which is responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of the audited financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, their judgments as to the quality and the acceptability of the Company's financial reporting and discussed with the independent auditors matters required to be discussed under Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) Auditing Standard No. 16. Communication with Audit Committees. The Audit Committee has received from the independent auditors the written disclosures regarding the auditor's independence required by the PCAOB Rule 3526, Communications with Audit Committees Concerning Independence. The Audit Committee discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm their independence from management and the Company, including the matters required by the applicable rules of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

In addition to the matters specified above, the Audit Committee discussed with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm the overall scope, plans and estimated costs of their audit. The Committee met with the independent registered public accounting firm periodically, with and without management present, to discuss the results of the independent registered public accounting firm's examinations, the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting and the independent registered public accounting firm's reviews of the quarterly financial statements, and drafts of the quarterly and annual reports.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Company's audited financial statements should be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

Submitted by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors

Richard I. Steinhart, Chairman  
Gregory L. Weaver  
H. Lawrence Rimmel, Esq

## OTHER BUSINESS

We know of no other matters to be submitted to a vote of stockholders at the annual meeting. If any other matter is properly brought before the annual meeting or any adjournment thereof, it is the intention of the persons named in the enclosed proxy to vote the shares they represent in accordance with their judgment. In order for any stockholder to nominate a candidate or to submit a proposal for other business to be acted upon at a given annual meeting, he or she must provide timely written notice to our corporate Secretary in the form prescribed by our Bylaws, as described below.

## STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

Stockholder proposals intended to be included in the 2018 annual meeting proxy materials must be received by the Secretary of the Company no later than December 16, 2017, or otherwise as permitted by applicable law (the “Proxy Deadline”). The form and substance of these proposals must satisfy the requirements established by the Company’s Bylaws and the SEC, and the timing for the submission of any such proposals may be subject to change as a result of changes in SEC rules and regulations.

Additionally, stockholders who intend to present a stockholder proposal at the 2018 annual meeting must provide the Secretary of the Company with written notice of the proposal between 90 and 120 days prior to the one-year anniversary date of the 2017 annual meeting; provided, however, that if the 2018 annual meeting date is advanced by more than 30 days before or delayed by more than 60 days after the one-year anniversary date of the 2017 annual meeting, then stockholders must provide notice within time periods specified in our Bylaws. Notice must be tendered in the proper form prescribed by our Bylaws. Proposals not meeting the requirements set forth in our Bylaws will not be entertained at the meeting.

Additionally, any stockholder seeking to recommend a director candidate or any director candidate who wishes to be considered by the Nominating and Governance Committee, the committee that recommends a slate of nominees to the Board for election at each annual meeting, must provide the Secretary of the Company with all information relating to such nominee that is required to be disclosed in proxy statements pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Exchange Act (including such person’s written consent to being named in the proxy statement as a nominee and to serving as a director if elected). The Nominating and Governance Committee will consider all director candidates who comply with these requirements and will evaluate these candidates using the criteria described above under the caption, “Nomination of Directors.” Director candidates who are then approved by the Board will be included in the Company’s Proxy Statement for that annual meeting.

## DELIVERY OF PROXY MATERIALS

Our annual report to stockholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, including audited financial statements, accompanies this Proxy Statement. Copies of our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for fiscal 2016 are available from the Company without charge upon written request of a stockholder. Copies of these materials are also available online through the Securities and Exchange Commission at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The Company may satisfy SEC rules regarding delivery of proxy statements and annual reports by delivering a single proxy statement and annual report to an address shared by two or more Company stockholders. This delivery method can result in meaningful cost savings for the Company. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, the Company may deliver only one proxy statement and annual report to multiple stockholders who share an address, unless contrary instructions are received prior to the mailing date. Similarly, if you share an address with another stockholder and have received multiple copies of our proxy materials, you may write or call us at the address and phone number below to request delivery of a single copy of these materials in the future. We undertake to deliver promptly upon written or oral request a separate copy of the proxy statement and/or annual report, as requested, to a stockholder at a shared address to which a single copy of these documents was delivered. If you hold stock as a record stockholder and prefer to receive separate copies of a proxy statement or annual report either now or in the future, please contact the Company’s Secretary at 107 Spring Street,

Edgar Filing: ATOSSA GENETICS INC - Form DEF 14A

Seattle, Washington 98104 or by telephone at (800) 351-3902. If your stock is held through a brokerage firm or bank and you prefer to receive separate copies of a proxy statement or annual report either now or in the future, please contact your brokerage firm or bank.

25

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

The Company is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and, in accordance therewith, files reports and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). Any interested party may inspect information filed by the Company, without charge, at the public reference facilities of the SEC at its principal office at 100 F. Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Any interested party may obtain copies of all or any portion of the information filed by the Company at prescribed rates from the Public Reference Section of the SEC at its principal office at 100 F. Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding the Company and other registrants that file electronically with the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The Company's common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Capital Market and trades under the symbol "ATOS".

EACH STOCKHOLDER IS URGED TO COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND PROMPTLY RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY.

ATOSSA GENETICS INC.  
107 Spring Street  
Seattle, Washington 98104

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints Steven C. Quay, M.D., Ph.D. and Kyle Guse, Esq., and each of them, his or her true and lawful agents and proxies with full power of substitution in each, to represent the undersigned at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Atossa Genetics Inc. to be held at 107 Spring Street, Seattle, Washington 98104, on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. local time, and at any adjournments thereof, and to vote as designated.

This proxy, when properly executed, will be voted in the manner you direct. If no direction is made, your proxy will be voted FOR the proposals and nominees described in the enclosed Proxy Statement and in the discretion of the proxy holders on all other matters that may come before the meeting.

PLEASE MARK, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THIS PROXY CARD PROMPTLY  
USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT! PLEASE VOTE.

(Continued and to be signed on the reverse side)

Proposal 1 Elect Directors to Class II

° For All Nominees

° Withhold Authority  
For All Nominees

° For All Except  
(see instructions below)

Class II Nominees:

Stephen J. Galli, M.D. and  
Richard I. Steinhart

INSTRUCTIONS: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee(s), mark “For All Except” and write the name(s) for which you wish to withhold authority below.

Proposal 2 Ratify BDO USA LLP as independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017

Vote For

Vote Against

Abstain

Proposal 3 Approve to increase the authorized shares under the 2010 Stock Option and Incentive Plan by 1,500,000 shares

Vote For

Vote Against

Abstain

and to vote on such other business as may properly come before the meeting

Date:

Signature of Shareholder(s)

Signature of Shareholder(s) )

This Proxy must be signed exactly as the name appears herein. When shares are held jointly, each holder should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer, giving full title as such. If signer is a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

THANK YOU FOR VOTING